



Montgomery County Council

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COUNCILMEMBER PEREZ CALLS FOR MORE MINORITY RECRUITMENT WITHIN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Councilmember Tom Perez today proposed a special appropriation of \$200,000 to promote a more diverse workforce for the Fire and Rescue Service, responding to the most recent recruit class, in which only two out of 48 recruits are non-white.

"We have made great strides in attracting minorities to the County within the last 30 years," said Councilmember Perez. "We need a workforce in the Department of Fire and Rescue Services that reflects the diversity of the County."

The latest statistics on the most recent class recruit represent the lowest minority recruitment since the county began keeping such records. Councilmember Perez called for an investigation into the written firefighter aptitude test to determine if the test gives any unfair advantage.

"These statistics are unacceptable," said Perez. "But I have confidence that we can get back up to the original number of minorities in the Department, and develop a comprehensive plan to recruit diversely."

"I have worked closely with Fire and Rescue Chief Carr and several other leaders on this issue," he said. "We have formed a partnership and the commitment from the department is clearly there."

"When somebody is experiencing a heart attack, we can't ask them to hold on while we go get an interpreter. The need for minorities is crucial to the function of the rescue aspect of the Fire and Rescue Department."# # #